

determined to continue the Soviet practice of hiding the truth about environmental depredation.

Mr. Speaker, retired Russian naval officer Alexandr Nikitin has been charged with "revealing state secrets"—and if convicted, could receive the death sentence—for his work with the Norwegian environmental organization "Bellona" in exposing both the Soviet and Russian Navy's nuclear waste dumping around the White Sea and Kola Peninsular in northeast Russia. Nikitin and his supporters claim that all the material he secured for Bellona's report, "The Russian Northern Fleet: Sources of Radioactive Contamination," had already been published in open sources.

Originally charged in February 1996, he was held in detention until December 1996, when an international outcry was raised in his behalf. Still the investigation continues to drag on and on and on.

The problem, from the standpoint of the investigators and the security services, is that the Russian Federation has a constitution with provisions on civil liberties, which some in Russia take seriously, and there are now lawyers in Russia who actually know the law and defend their clients. At first, the investigators threatened to indict Nikitin on secret unpublished military instructions, but this was in conflict with Part 3, Art. 15 of the Constitution, "no regulatory legal act affecting the rights, liberties or duties of the human being and citizen may apply unless it has been published officially for general knowledge." Now after six attempted indictments, investigators have produced an indictment that the claim will pass constitutional muster.

The prominent Ukrainian writer Nikolai Gogol wrote a fictional story about a legal case that dragged on for years in Tsarist Russia. Nikitin must identify with a character from that story.

Through efforts of concerned human rights and environmental activists, the international community has begun to focus attention on the Nikitin case. *Amnesty International* has declared him as Russia's only political prisoner since the fall of the Soviet Union. The Prime Ministers of Norway and Canada have raised Nikitin's case with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, and President Clinton has called for "just deliberations" in the case. A couple of weeks ago, former Soviet President Gorbachev stated that "there is nothing to [the Nikitin case], but that "democratic Russia still can't let go of its affection for catching spies."

Meanwhile, back on the streets of St. Petersburg, Alexandr Nikitin has been followed, believe it or not, by a group of "men in black." The tires on his car have been slashed, and his door locks filed with glue. Recently, one of his lawyers was accosted by unidentified thugs and told to "stay away from this." Another lawyer suggests, quite plausibly, that the security services realize their case is an embarrassment, and they want Nikitin to fear for his life and that of his family so that he will admit to the charges in exchange for amnesty.

Mr. Speaker, I believe sincerely that the American people and the Congress wish the Russian people well, and we wish to work together in areas such as the environment that will benefit both our peoples. But, the case of Alexandr Nikitin raises serious doubts about the Russian military and security services to find a reasonable balance between security and the public interest.

I recognize that the Russian Government and the people are working toward civilian control of the military and an established rule of law system. The resolution of the Nikitin case will be a significant indicator of progress in these areas.

HONORING VICKY MOLGARD

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vicky Molgard who was recently named Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the Colorado Art Education Association. Ms. Molgard teaches art at Centennial, Big Thompson, and Monroe Elementary Schools. She has taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels for 17 years in the Thompson School District. In addition to her inspired work as a teacher, she is a practicing artist who serves as a role model for her young students.

Her lessons are often described as unique because she encourages her students to study and imitate the work of classic artists of all ages. She introduces her students to ideas which inspire them and she provides a creative outlet for their young minds. As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District of Colorado where Ms. Molgard teaches, it is my honor and privilege to recognize her tremendous achievement and thank her for the time and dedication she shows to the children of the Thompson School District.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to recognize Ms. Molgard before the House for sharing her time and talents.

INTER-FAITH EFFORT TO BUILD PEACE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. GILMAN Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 1998, along with several members of the Congress, we had the opportunity to participate in a historic visit to the Capitol of the leaders of the four major faiths of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I ask that my opening remarks at that meeting, along with those of Rabbi Arthur Schneier, be included in the RECORD. Rabbi Schneier is the President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation which has won international recognition for its excellent work in promoting inter-faith reconciliation, tolerance and religious freedom around the world. The Appeal of Conscience Foundation has been extensively involved in working to rebuild peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MAY 21, 1998

It is a pleasure to welcome the leaders of the four major religions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His Eminence Cardinal Vinko Pulic, Archbishop of Sarajevo, His Eminence Dr. Mustafa Cerić, leader of the Islamic

Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolaj Mrdja, Head of the Orthodox Church of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Dr. Jacob Finci, President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina are visiting the United States as part of an initiative by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to promote reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Your efforts are to be applauded. The fact that you have together agreed to visit the United States to demonstrate your sincere interest in healing Bosnia is noteworthy and highly encouraging. As you may know, many in the Congress, myself included, were not very enthusiastic about the deployment of American troops as peacekeepers in Bosnia. We have been skeptical about whether the aim of the Dayton Peace Plan to reconstruct a multi-ethnic society in Bosnia and Herzegovina was achievable in a realistic period of time. We have been heartened, however over the past year that there have been new developments that show that the people of Bosnia do truly want to live in peace with one another, to reconstruct the devastated economy and resume normal lives.

During 1998 we will be looking very carefully at two issues: one being the return of refugees and particularly minority returns, and the second being the results of the elections scheduled for September. With regard to refugee returns, we expect there to be significant progress with large numbers of people returning to Bosnia, and, if they so choose, to their original homes. With regards to elections, we want to see continued progress on electing new leaders who advocate the aims of the Dayton Plan, and are not associated with the strident nationalist policies advocated by leaders during the war. Your visit is significant for us and we wish you success in all your efforts to promote our mutual objective of restoring peace and stability to all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

REMARKS BY RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, PRESIDENT, APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION, TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman Gilman and members of the House International Affairs Committee.

I appreciate the warm welcome you have given to the top religious leaders of the Catholic, Islamic, Serbian Orthodox and Jewish Communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina who are the guests of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. I invited them to the United States so that for the first time together they would experience democratic institutions and pluralism in America.

Today's meeting in the United States Congress and with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright encourages them to help pursue peace, tolerance and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In an effort to end the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia in 1992, under the auspices of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation I brought together at a conference in Bern, Switzerland the top religious leaders of the Catholic, Islamic and Serbian Orthodox communities from the former Yugoslavia to take a united stand against the war. (Cardinal Pulic, who was then an Archbishop, is here with us today participated in the Bern conference). To further this objective the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and I co-sponsored in 1994, the Peace and Tolerance Conference in Istanbul, where the Bosphorus Declaration was adopted; and in 1995 I brought together religious leaders for the Conflict Resolution Conference leading to the adoption of the Vienna Declaration, a prelude to the Dayton Peace Accord.

Today in Washington, DC, the capital of the free world, these religious leaders in a

joint declaration with the Appeal of Conscience Foundation have reaffirmed their commitment to building a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We in turn pledge them our support in strengthening their courageous stand for peace and tolerance in their country.

It remains our challenge to help disseminate to the widest possible audience their message of 'live and let live'. The Dayton Peace Accord signed by political leaders requires implementation by the people. To this effect the top religious leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina, united in the newly created Inter-Religious Council of Sarajevo can make an invaluable contribution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed two votes. The first, agreeing to the Senate amendments on H.R. 1847, the Telemarketing Fraud Prevention Act; and the second, passage of House Resolution 401, the Sense of the House that Social Promotion Should Be Ended. I support both measures and had I been present I would have voted "yes" on roll-call No. 232 and No. 233.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FIRST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a very special event taking place on Capitol Hill this week. On Thursday, June 18, 1988, Capitol Hill will host a staged robotic competition, the "Capitol Hill Robotics Invitational". This invitational will involve eleven high school robotics teams from across the nation. This even underscores an innovative program known as FIRST. FIRST, (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), is a national nonprofit group founded to promote interest in math, science, and technology. It partners engineers from major corporations and small businesses, scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the military, and mentors from universities, with high school students around the country.

Regarding the "Robotics Invitational," I would also like to take this opportunity to share a story with my colleagues. a story of a school that five years ago implemented this new program dedicated to improving students proficiency in science and math. Five years later this high school has an attendance rate of 82 percent. The enrollment has increased to 1400. Seventy-one percent of the students pass the State Proficiency Tests. When the Robotics Invitational is held on Capitol Hill I plan to be on hand to cheer on a very special team from this school. The name of this school is East Technical High School, and I am proud to say that this school is located within my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to tell you more about the success story that is East Tech High School. Today, students run to their math and science classes, and many work hard to obtain the 3.00 Grade Point Average necessary to become involved with the FIRST program. All twelve members of the initial FIRST team have graduated and are now enrolled in four year engineering programs at university levels. East Tech High School is the epitome of a phoenix rising from the ashes, considering it was scheduled for closing those short five years ago.

The East Tech Student Engineering/FIRST Team currently has 40 members. It was this team that recently finished 9th out of 150 teams at the National Science and Math Competition in Orlando, Florida. And it is this team, selected from 200 other teams, to have their Robotics team along with eleven other teams from across the country, participate in the robotics competition this week on Capitol Hill.

East Technical High School, along with the aid of the NASA/Lewis Research Center who introduced FIRST to the School, has sparked the intelligence in these students that came so close to being extinguished with the slated closing of their high school. This team is indicative of the talents that lie beneath the surface of many young people in urban environments who never receive a chance or get the impact of a program like FIRST.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share stories of programs like FIRST that exist and get our young people involved in the fields of math and science. In fact, I am now told that more students try out for East Tech's FIRST team than they do for basketball and football combined. This program was the spark, but I feel that the students in East Technical High School had it in them all along. These students need to be commended today for the perseverance and hard work they have shown. I am sure these students have even more success awaiting them in the future.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me the opportunity to share this special success story with my colleagues. Once again, I would like to congratulate the students of East Technical High School for their achievements and for a job well done.

EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERS

Orlando Antongiorgi, Michael Bors, Kaishaelia Brown, Jaria Chatmon, Rita Greeham, Sha'Lawnda Griffe, Breasha James, Jesse Mathis, Aja Maxwell, Mario Mendes, Drew Odum, Kanita Parra, Khadijah Qadaar, Shakina Shields, Sierra Smith, Christi Sutton, Sophia Syed, Bobby Vannoy, Sharonda Whatley, and Tiffany Neal.

EAST TECHNICAL FACULTY TEAM MEMBERS

Jan Berlin, Sarah Broadnax, Terry Butler, Mary Carter, and Jerome Seppelt.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES

Donald Campbell, Director, Joann Charleston, Alicia González, Larry Greer, John Hairston, Dan Kocka, and Mary Palumbo.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Lora Johnson/TRW and Julie Rehm/Battelle.

HONORING ANGEL RUIZ

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angel Ruiz, a ninth-grader at Thompson Valley High School, who has recently been named Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club of Loveland. The winner of this prestigious award is selected among those who won the Youth of the Month award for 1997. Ruiz was honored with the monthly award in September.

As an active member of the Boys & Girls Club of Loveland for a little over a year, Ruiz participates in a variety of service oriented projects. He regularly spends his time after school quizzing younger children on spelling works and math tables and enjoys the opportunity to serve as a role model for those he tutors. He also serves as a staff member where his duties include cleaning the club, managing membership renewals and orienting new members.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that over the past year Angel Ruiz's Grade Point Average has soared from 1.5 to 3.8 on a 4 point scale. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth Congressional District where Angel Ruiz lives and devotes his time to serve his community, I am proud to honor this youth for his great contribution to the town of Loveland and to our entire state.

HONORING ALAN R. WALDEN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan R. Walden, who is retiring in July from his broadcasting career of 44 years. Throughout his distinguished journalism career, Mr. Walden has covered almost every major national and international event and he has set a standard of excellence in journalism that is hard to match.

Every weekday morning, thousands of Baltimoreans wake up to Alan Walden's thorough, in-depth news reports as the anchor of WBAL-AM's morning show. He uses his insight and knowledge to give listeners an important perspective on regional, national and international events. On weekday evenings, listeners also can hear his insightful commentary on "Walden Ponderings."

Born in New York City, Mr. Walden has won virtually every major broadcast journalism award. His career has included jobs as news director of radio stations in New York, Boston and Cleveland, and vice president of Radio News for Metromedia Inc. In addition, he helped bring broadcast journalism into a new age as one of the principal architects of NBC News and Information Service, the first 24-hour-a-day news network in the United States.

As senior correspondent for NBC Radio News specializing in international affairs and domestic politics, Mr. Walden has covered the Camp David Peace Accords, SALT II, the Falkland Islands War, the invasion of Grenada, the civil war in El Salvador and the Panama Crisis.